



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

No. 171

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, giver of everlasting life, nothing can separate us from Your limitless love.

Use our lawmakers today for Your glory, inspiring them to cultivate tough minds and tender hearts. Lord, help them to remember that nothing is impossible to those who place their trust in You. May the power of faith create in them both the desire and the ability to do Your will. As our Senators humble themselves in prayer, prepare their hearts and minds to serve Your purposes on Earth.

Lord, give Your consolation to those experiencing sorrow and Your love to us all.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 30, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has a number of issues to wrap up, including the conference reports on the Water Resources Development Act, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, and, of course, the National Defense Authorization Act as well.

The action taken by the Senate yesterday will allow us to have a final vote on the critical Iran Sanctions Extension Act sometime this week. Later today, the House is set to vote on the 21st Century Cures bill, an important medical research and innovation bill which contains a number of bipartisan priorities.

Once their work is complete, the Senate will consider this measure and send it to the President's desk. Talks on the continuing resolution are ongoing. I will have more to say about that in the coming days.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have served in Congress now for 34 years. Throughout that time, I have tried to

be pleasant and helpful to my colleagues. I feel very fortunate to have become personally close and friends with Members of Congress from all over this great country. BARBARA BOXER and I were Members of the House class of 1982. Such fond memories do I have of that class—TOM CARPER, DICK DURBIN, and scores of others. We had a huge class.

At first glance, BARBARA BOXER and HARRY REID had very little in common. She was from California. It is a heavily populated and liberal State. I was from Nevada, a much smaller State in area and in population. I was the only Democrat in my State's Congressional delegation. But I was stunned when I was asked to join this huge California Congressional delegation. Being from Nevada and being part of the largest Congressional delegation in America was extremely helpful to me.

The Californians were good to me in so many different ways, just allowing me to be part of their meetings every Wednesday morning. I was flattered when I was asked to be secretary-treasurer of that large delegation. I have so many memories of the work we did together, California and Nevada.

Howard Berman, who was the leader of that freshman class from California, was the head of the steering committee. Don Edwards was the chairman of the delegation at those meetings we had every morning. The Burton brothers and just so many others went out of their way to help me.

I came to know quickly that BARBARA BOXER was no ordinary public servant. She was relentless—I mean relentless—and dedicated and very principled. She was raised by hard-working, first-generation immigrants in Brooklyn, NY. She attended Brooklyn College, graduated with a degree in economics. Over the decades, we have gotten to know each other's families very well. We talk about each other's children. We have exchanged family experiences many, many times.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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